REMARKS

This amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1-10 are pending for further examination.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in original claim 1, paragraph 0011 and 0060-0062 of the published application. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for providing detailed comments in the October 26, 2009 Advisory Action.

Claim 1-10 were rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2003/0133412 (Iyer et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2002/0191572 (Weinstein et al.).

Claim 1 now recites that the MPLS table item managing module obtains "a specific egress port corresponding to the forwarding-relation table item from the multiple ports of the VLAN based upon the next-hop IP address." In contrast, U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0133412 (Iyer et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0191572 (Weinstein et al.) does not disclose or render obvious this feature or the claimed subject matter as a whole.

The Iyer et al. application discloses VLANs that are established in source enterprise LAN and destination enterprise LAN. For example, the Iyer et al. application discloses

> FIG. 2(a) illustrates an end-to-end virtual circuit spanning at least two enterprise local area networks (LANs) [the source enterprise LAN and the destination enterprise LAN] and a global network . . . the MPLS-enabled routers and the corresponding label-switched path (LSP) are connected to the VLANs in each enterprise network to form the end-to-end virtual circuit (EEVC.)

See FIG. 2(a) and paragraph 0023. The Iyer et al. application later discloses that "A network administrator establishes a VLAN on the source enterprise LAN by inputting information into a LAN switch's VLAN-ID table." *See* paragraph 0025. Because the MPLS is not applied in a VLAN, there is no need to obtain specific ports from the multiple ports of the VLAN. Thus, the

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Iyer et al. application does not disclose "obtaining . . . a specific egress port corresponding to the forwarding-relation table item from the multiple ports of the VLAN based upon the next-hop IP address."

Likewise, the Weinstein et al. application does not disclose this feature. The Weinstein et al. application discloses that an outgoing packet undergoes a mapping process and then is sent out to an outgoing interface. Specifically, the Weinstein et al. application discloses that:

> When a labeled packet arrives at an intermediate router along an LSP . . . The label in the packet is first extracted and the pair of (incoming port, incoming label) is a map into a pair of (outgoing port, outgoing label). The incoming label is then replaced with the outgoing label in the MPLS packet and the packet is sent out to the outgoing interface.

See paragraph 66. Thus, the Weinstein et al. application does not disclose a process of "obtaining . . . a specific egress port corresponding to the forwarding-relation table item from the multiple ports of the VLAN based upon the next-hop IP address."

Nor would there have been any reason to modify the Iyer et al. application and Weinstein et al. applications so as to obtain the claimed subject matter obvious.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as unpatentable over the Iyer et al application in view of the Weinstein et al. application.

Dependent claims 2-10 should be patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, the dependent claims recite additional features that make those claims independently patentable.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as

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an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.
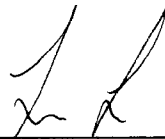
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Applicant asks that all claims be examined in view of the amendment to the claims.

The Petition for Extension of Time fee in the amount of $130.00 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \\| 6 | 09

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